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SUBJECT: ROMANIA: CYBERSECURITY POLICIES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

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Sensitive but Unclassified, not for Internet distribution.

¶1. (SBU) EconOff met with Andrei Savulescu, Director General of the Department for Information Society in the Ministry of Communications and Information Society (MCSI) and Toma Cimpanu, Vice President of the Agency for Information Society Services (ASSI) in response to reftel demarche. The Government of Romania (GOR) broadly concurs with the USG that cybersecurity issues present a looming threat, both to commerce and to national security. Noting that Romania has recently reorganized their Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) following the U.S. model, they expressed an interest in working cooperatively with the U.S. to establish best practices and share information. The Romanian CERT was recently established under the MCSI's authority in January 2009, building on existing capabilities within the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defense.

¶2. (SBU) Savulescu and Cimpanu stated that the biggest cybersecurity threat in Romania is the illegal collection of private data through Internet banking. However, Cimpanu also pointed out that as e-government services increasingly take hold, threats to the public sector are expected to increase. Savulescu and Cimpanu acknowledged that there have been exploratory attacks by foreign governments and other entities on Romanian computer networks and that the GOR consequently maintains a high level of vigilance in response to this threat. Some critical industries, specifically in the energy sector, already have robust cybersecurity defense programs in place, but the MSCI believes these programs could be expanded.

¶3. (U) According to post's interlocutors, the GOR is working hard to improve the security of commercial networks and bolster data privacy. The GOR is eager to work both bilaterally and multilaterally on efforts to enhance the security of public and private computer networks in Romania.

GUTHRIE-CORN